

AUTOMATIC DEM GENERATION USING MAGELLAN RADAR STEREO DATA

by Scott Hensley and Scott Shaffer
Jet propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91109
Telephone: (818)- 354-3322
FAX: (818)-393-5285

Subsequent to its insertion into Venus orbit in August of 1990 the Magellan spacecraft collected synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data over 98% of the planet's surface. Because Venus' spin rate is very small, completing one rotation in every 243 days (one cycle), Magellan was able to image a large portion of the planet's surface during, each of its three mapping cycles. During the third cycle the look angle was adjusted in order to obtain stereo pairs with data collected during the first cycle. Stereo data was collected over approximately 35% of Venus' surface. In order to exploit this data set an automated procedure for making digital elevation models (DEM) from the stereo data is required. Stereo processing consists of three primary functions, scene correlation or matching, solving for scatterer position vectors using the matching data (stereo intersection), and regriding the position vectors to a uniform map grid. In this paper we present algorithms for the stereo intersection and regriding functions which are applicable to the unique aspects of the Magellan stereo data.

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